



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 26**

February Session, 2008

Senate Bill No. 336

*Senate, March 13, 2008*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 2-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 At each regular or special session of the General Assembly no bill or  
4 strike-all amendment thereto shall be passed or become a law unless it  
5 has been printed in its final form, as prescribed by section 2-24, with  
6 the exception of germane amendments, and upon the desks of the  
7 members at least two legislative days prior to its final passage, unless  
8 the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House  
9 of Representatives have certified, in writing, the facts which in their  
10 opinion necessitate an immediate vote on such bill or strike-all  
11 amendment thereto, in which case it shall nevertheless be upon the  
12 desks of the members in final form, accompanied by the fiscal note  
13 required by section 2-24 when applicable, with the exception of  
14 germane amendments, but not necessarily printed, before its final

15 passage.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No bill or amendment thereto  
17 that creates an exception to an existing section of the general statutes  
18 shall be acted upon by either house of the General Assembly if a public  
19 hearing was not held on such bill or amendment, except that such  
20 requirement shall not apply if two-thirds of the members of each house  
21 vote in favor of waiving such requirement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	2-26
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

---

**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Legislative Management	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which makes changes to the procedures for acting upon bills and amendments, has no fiscal impact on the state.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 336*****AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT.*****SUMMARY:**

The law prohibits the General Assembly from passing or enacting bills until they have been on members' desks for at least two legislative days unless (1) the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker certify in writing the facts that require an immediate vote or (2) a bill incorporates or consists of a germane amendment.

For strike all amendments, this bill instead, applies the two-day requirement. Presumably, a germane amendment remains exempt from the two-day requirement if it is non-strike-all. (Technically, amendments are "adopted," rather than passed).

The bill also prohibits the General Assembly from acting on a bill or amendment that "creates an exception to" an existing law if it did not have a public hearing unless two-thirds of the members of each chamber vote to waive the requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****"Strike-All" Amendment***

"Strike-all" (not defined in the bill) is a colloquial term that generally refers to an amendment that deletes all of the language of the underlying bill and substitutes another version of it. The format for other (non-strike-all) amendments makes additions, deletions, or changes to specified lines in the underlying bill.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea     11     Nay   0     (02/29/2008)